

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13

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-----061488 201542Z /53

R 200838Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6365

CNO

DIA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2776

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SHARIFF, MOHAMMAD, ADMIRAL, CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF)

MARR, PK, US

SUBJECT: PAKS SUGGEST VISIT TO U.S. BY NAVAL CHIEF

1. SEPTTEL IN DIA CHANNEL REPORTS POLITE AND INFORMAL INQUIRY FROM OFFICE OF PAK NAVAL CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL MOHAMMAD SHARIFF TO ALUSNA CAPTAIN JOHN WATSON ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF HIS VISITING U.S. IN JUNE TO ATTEND COMMISSIONING OF TWO PAKNAV DESTROYERS ON WEST COAST AND TO INCLUDE VISIT TO ADM. HOLLOWAY IN WASHINGTON.

2. THERE ARE INDICATIONS HEAD OF GOVT GENERAL ZIA MAY VISIT UN IN MAY (SEPTTEL), AND PAK FONMIN AGHA SHAHI, ALONG WITH JOINT STAFF CHIEF GENERAL SHARIFF WILL GO TO WASHINGTON FOR CENTO MINISTERIAL IN APRIL. UNCERTAIN POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN, EQUALLY UNCERTAIN POLICY PROBLEMS SURROUNDING NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT, AND COINCIDENCE OF OTHER HIGH-LEVEL PAKISTANI VISITS COMBINE TO CAUSE US TO RECOMMEND THAT WE POLITELY DISCOURAGE VISIT BY ADMIRAL SHARIFF. NOT LEAST OF CONSIDERATIONS IS THAT WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY, BECAUSE OF MANNER IN WHICH SUGGESTION HAS BEEN MADE, TO TURN VISIT OFF WITHOUT NOTICEABLE DAMAGE TO RELATIONS.

3. THEREFORE, WE SUGGEST WE BE AUTHORIZED TO REPLY INFORMALLY
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THROUGH ALUSNA THAT ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY'S SCHEDULE IS VERY FULL IN JUNE, THAT JOINT CHIEFS MAY UNDERGO PERSONNEL CHANGES AROUND THAT TIME, AND THAT IT DOES NOT SEEM CONVENIENT FROM U.S. SIDE FOR ADMIRAL SHARIFF TO CONTEMPLATE VISIT. BELIEVE SUCH STATEMENT WOULD BE SEEN BY ADM. SHARIFF AS POLITE DISCOURAGEMENT THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT.

4. EMBASSY WISHES POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IN EVENT OTHER VISITS SUCH AS GEN. ZIA TO UN DO NOT MATERIALIZE, AND IF POLITICAL SITUATION, INCLUDING REPROCESSING PLANT, ARE IN FAVORABLE MODE, WE MIGHT WISH TO REVIVE POSSIBILITY OF ADMIRAL SHARIFF VISIT TO U.S. CHIEFLY FOR PURPOSE OF COMMISSIONING DESTROYERS. FYI WE UNDERSTAND THAT DATE OF COMMISSIONING IS FLEXIBLE UP TO SOME TIME IN JULY WHEN DESTROYERS WILL DEPART U.S. FOR PAKISTAN. END FYI.
HUMMEL

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NNN

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TAGS: OVIP, (SHARIFF, MOHAMMAD)
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